THE DAILY CONSERVATIVE.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable Assembly of the State of North Carolina:

Since our last adjournment, very important changes in the situation of our affairs and important events have occurred which many of them require legislative action at your hands.

The late act of Congress conferring power on the President of the Confederate States, to impose regulations and restrictions on commerce has given rise to such a system, on the part of the Confederate authorities, as will effectually exclude this State from importing any farther supplies for the army or people. The port of Wilmington is now more effectually blockaded *from within* than without. The terms imposed upon ship owners, being such that a heavy loss is incurred by every voyage—and notwithstanding the said act provides: "That nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them from importing any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account." This is so construed by the Government as to compel the States to submit to the same terms as are imposed on private parties, and clearances are refused and the guns of the fortifications brought to bear upon our own vessels to compel a compliance.

Private parties importing supplies for the government, by contract, for enormous profits, are not taxed by these regulations; yet the State of North Carolina, importing almost the *same* articles for the *same* purpose, is compelled to submit to them. I deem it inconsistent with the public interest to refer more particularly to our blockade-running transactions and the loss which the State will suffer on ships and supplies on hand, if these regulations continue in force. When this is considered with the farther fact, as I hold it, that the general government has no right to seize one-half, or *any part of*, the interest of a sovereign State in the vessels employed in importing her supplies (this being the terms to which we are called upon to submit!), or to impose such regulations as will destroy instead of regulating commerce, it becomes your province to demand a repeal or modification of the act, and I respectfully and earnestly recommend that you do so. And in case Congress should decline to repeal or modify the act, I respectfully ask for directions as to what I shall do with the ships and supplies on hand. A detailed statement of these supplies together with an account as accurate as it can be, without vouches for expenditures abroad not yet received, is herewith submitted—together with the report of Mr. John White, our special Commissioner to Europe. In reference to his gentleman, it is due to him that I should say, that I have every reason to be pleased with the skill and fidelity with which he performed the duties of his difficult mission. A report of the operations of our other Commissioner, Col D. K. McRae, necessarily incomplete, is also submitted, and will I believe be found equally satisfactory, and creditable to him as Commissioner. In this connection, I respectfully ask for the appointment of a committee to investigate all matters appertaining to the blockade-running of the State, to be appointed at an early day, so as to report to your present session if possible. No appropriation has been made by your honorable body to pay the current expenses of the vessels engaged in running the blockade and none will be necessary, for these expenses can be paid by selling bills, drawn on our agent in England, as being incurred in Wilmington chiefly for the expenses connected with the loading and unloading vessels, compressing cotton, &c. And they can be discharged in currency.—I would suggest that you authorize the Treasurer to purchase these bills out of any money in the Treasury, and thus buy the sterling exchange in the Treasury—which otherwise would have to be put on the general market, and be lost to the State.

Being convinced from experience that the legitimate business of my office, now four-fold greater than formerly, is sufficient to tax all my energies of mind and body, and that I cannot do justice to the interest of the State in a business so complicated, as many of the transactions of which is carried on at such a distance, I respectfully recommend that a commission of one or more gentlemen, skilled in such business, be appointed to conduct the future operations of the State, in importing supplies, whether for the purpose of continuing the operations or winding up the business.

A report of the Adjutant General covering reports of his subordinates in the different departments is herewith submitted.

The impressment of property of citizens by officers and agents of the Confederate Government, harsh enough in itself, has become, doubly so, by the constant disregard of the provision of the law regulating seizures. In addition to this, the flagrant outrages committed, in every part of the country, by straggling soldiers, and other persons in the Confederate service, having no shadow of authority to impress property, has become a grievance almost intolerable. A recital of many instances of such, which have been brought to my knowledge, would shock the moral sense of the most heartless.

I have urged in vain upon the authorities of the Confederacy to check this evil, and have used every possible effort to do so myself.—But it seems to grow worse, and as the supplies of our people become more scant they feel more sensibly this unjust deprivation of their property, which reduces them almost to the verge of starvation. It must be stopped, if possible, and I earnestly recommend such action on your part as you may think best calculated to aid me in remedying the evil. My correspondence with the War Department on this subject is committed for your consideration. I desire to call your attention specially to certain enactments of the last Congress of the Confederate States. Among them is one extending the age of conscription from 18 to 17 and from 45 to 50 years, which force is to be organized as a State reserve—their company officers to be elected, and the field officers appointed by the President, and all to be under his command.

In addition to the great injury to be apprehended to the agricultural interest of the country, should these men be ordered into actual service, I have to remind you that it will absorb the entire militia force of the State, and would leave the Executive with no force whatsoever except State officers—a condition dangerous at once to the peace and order of the State, and to its sovereignty and dignity. There can scarcely be a doubt of the inexpediency of this act as to this State, since the same men with the exception of boys from 17 to 18 are now very thoroughly organized as Home Guards under State authority, and have been heretofore and would be again promptly turned out in cases of great public danger. Grave doubts are also entertained of its Constitutionality; the forces raised under it being to all intents and purposes militia, the control of which cannot be legally taken from the Executive of the State Government—at least so far as the appointment and commissioning of officers is concerned. Should you, however, in the absence of judicial decision as to the Constitutionality of the act, decline to take the responsibility of refusing assent to it, there will be an indispensable necessity of your constituting some militia for the preservation of law and order in the State—by extending the age of service of the militia and by some new organization of the Militia and Home Guard organizations; otherwise I shall have on my hands the officers of two distinct organizations, powerless for the want of men. In this connection I would mention that the same act of Congress has again conferred upon me, without reference to the Legislature, the power to claim the exemption of such State officers as I may deem necessary for the due administration of the laws. Not wishing to take so important a responsibility upon my shoulders without consulting the Representatives of the people, I have so far claimed the exemption of all civil and military officers of the State together with the indispensible employees of the different departments of the late Government as enumerated by your body at its late extra session. And I now respectfully ask that you indicate to me by resolution, what persons you regard as proper subjects for exemption.

I have taken the ground that exemption of State officers from conscription into the Confederate service is not by favor of Congress, but is a matter of right inherent in a sovereign State, and that for the same reason the State has an indisputable right to the services of laborers and other persons who are necessarily in her employ, though they be not *officers* within the meaning of the act of Congress. Should you again agree with me in this opinion, I would be happy to be sustained by a resolution to that effect.

Should you conclude to combine the Home Guard and Militia organizations, I recommend that the latter be preserved. I should regret exceedingly to see the militia abolished, and its organization destroyed. It is the ancient and time honored military institution of the State, her main dependence, in ordinary times, for the suppression of rebellion and repelling of invasion, and though shorn of its strength by the raising of great armies, and despite its many shortcomings, it has been of great service both to the State and Confederacy during this war.

Among the acts of Congress referred to that which has suspended the privilege of *habeas corpus* has most thoroughly aroused public attention. Neither the losses incurred by the radical and sudden changes in the currency, nor the conscription of the principals of substitutes, nor the extension of it to such an age, and upon such terms as to place the industrial pursuits of the country at the feet of the President, nor the heavy burthens of taxation—none of these, nor all of them together, have so awakened the public feeling as the withdrawal of this time honored and blood-bought guard of personal freedom from the people in times when it is most needed for their protection. It is true that our forefathers assumed, and this generation has conceded, that in cases of rebellion and invasion, the public safety may sometimes require its suspension; and, therefore, we have conferred on Congress the power of suspension in such cases, when the *public safety* may require it. Nor can it be doubted that the power authorized to suspend is the sole power entitled to judge of the necessity for the act, and if the late statute had merely prohibited out and out the use of the writ for the time specified, there could be no complaint against its constitutionality, however ill-timed and unnecessary may have been the exercise of a rigor so great. But I have been as unable to see, in the times, any necessity for denying the writ, as I am to recognize in the law the constitutional exercise of the favor that is granted. Concurring in the doctrine that the protection against the abuse of the constitution of the Confederate States, either by usurpation of powers or oppressive use of such as are granted, is to be found in the responsibility of Congress to the people, ensured by their short tenure of office, and the reserved right of each State, to resume the powers delegated to the Confederate government, whenever in her judgment they are perverted to the injury or oppression of the people, I deem it a duty devolved on the State, through her proper organs, to make known to that government her complaints and to insist upon a redress of her grievances. Under this idea of duty, and in a spirit of regard for the government of our adoption, I deem it incumbent to present my objections against the late act.

It is declared in the preamble that "the President has asked for the suspension, and informed Congress of conditions of public danger which render a suspension of the writ a measure proper for the public defence against invasion and insurrection." Therefore it is enacted that the writ shall be suspended as to "the cases of persons arrested or detained by order of the President, Secretary of War, or the General Officer commanding the Trans-Mississippi military department."

The statute proceeds to classify under thirteen heads a very great number of acts, of which, if a man be accused, he shall be deprived of the benefit of the writ; and among them the act of attempting to "avoid military service." To prevent the outrage which may be perpetrated on an innocent man not subject to military service for merely attempting "to avoid military service, unlawfully demanded, it is provided that "in case of palpable wrong and oppression by any subordinate officer upon any party who does not legally owe military service, his superior shall grant prompt relief to the oppressed party," and "the subordinate shall be dismissed from office."

And as a general protection of the citizens against abuses, under the act, it is provided, that "the President shall cause proper officers to investigate the cases of all persons so arrested or detained, in order that they may be discharged if improperly detained, unless they can be speedily tried in due course of law."

And, finally, it is enacted that "no military or other officer shall be compelled in answer to any writ of *habeas corpus* to appear in person or to return the body of any person detained by the authority of the President, Secretary of War" &c.; "but upon the certificate, under oath, of the officer having charge of any one so detained that such person is detained by him for any of the causes specified in the act under said authority, further proceedings under the writ shall immediately cease."

In order to ascertain whether the enactment is within the powers delegated, it is proper to keep in mind what are the privileges of the writ of *habeas corpus*, and we shall be sure to know what can be affected constitutionally, by a suspension of it. This writ is the offspring of the love of liberty, and has been in use for ages by our ancestors and ourselves as the hand-maid of freedom. Its use is to have enquiry made according to the rules of law of the causes why persons are restrained of their civil freedom. If upon enquiry by the proper authority, there be no cause for detention, the person is set at liberty. If there be cause he is remanded for further detention or allowed to go at large upon bail. Now, these are all the privileges of the writ of *habeas corpus*. The writ finds no place for action until after the person is arrested. So that if there be any privileges or securities to the person attending the mode of arrest, these are not the privileges of the writ of *habeas corpus*, but exist independently of them.—And it is therefore clear that a power to suspend the privileges of the writ is not a power to suspend the privileges secured in forms attending the mode of arrest. They are too distinct to be confounded by any species of sophistry; and this distinction is plainly and notably observed in the bill to suspend the writ, passed though the Senate in January, 1807, which suspended it only when the person may have been "charged on oath," and arrested by virtue of "a warrant." The writ was as effectually suspended by this bill as by this act, and the [illegible] including the mode of arrest, were left untouched and unimpaired. It may be then regarded as settled truth, that the suspension of the writ [illegible] forms prescribed for arrest, and that Congress has no power, express or implied, to suspend another guarantee of civil liberty provided in the Constitution besides those secured by the writ alone. Notwithstanding this, the late act has strode over some of the most important guards of civil liberty, as if an express power had been conferred on Congress to suspend them likewise. Thus, while by paragraph 3, sec. 9, it is allowed Congress to suspend the privileges of the writ of *habeas corpus* in the emergencies mentioned, it is by the same section, paragraph 13, in the most emphatic terms, declared that "No warrant shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the person to be seized." And by paragraph 16, that "no person shall be deprived of his liberty without due process of law"—that is, "law in its regular course of administration, through courts of justice," (1 Kent's Com. Sec 24, paragraphs 13—14.) The beginning of this due process is first the charge on oath, and the next step is the warrant describing the person to be seized. The third is the arrest, and until this takes place the *habeas corpus* has no status, and cannot possibly have any. At this point the writ springs into being, if not denied, and as here only its aid can be sought for the first time; so here for the first time can its privilege be derived. Yet the act involves with its suspension a suspension of the distinct and independent provisions which guard the citizen against a false charge and the dangers of a general warrant.

In my judgment Congress had the same power to suspend every other guard of civil liberty to be found in the constitution—the same to deprive the citizen of the guaranty that he should not be held to answer for a capital crime, unless on presentment or indictment of a grand jury—that he should not be compelled to be a witness against himself—that he should have the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, and a trial in the district in which the crime shall have been committed.

The writ of *habeas corpus* is peculiar to the English people and ourselves. And a complete illustration of the operation of a suspension of its privileges will be seen by supposing that it had no existence here. In such case no provision would have been found for its suspension. But the clause requiring a charge of crime to be made on oath and warrant to describe the person to be seized would have been not only very proper, but the more necessary to be inserted. These could not have been legally disturbed by Congress, and any legislation dispensing with them had been mere usurpation and void.

Such is the general view I have taken of the act as it is supposed to relate to *crimes*. But the statute is construed to reach cases involving no offence whatever, legal or moral; and though there is some difference of opinion upon the question whether paragraph 5 of sec. 1, embraces the case of a citizen not liable to military duty, who neither flies nor resists, but simply appeals or tries to appeal to the constitutional repositors of the law for a decision upon his rights; yet there is too much reason to believe that the language is susceptible of the interpretation that it does include such persons; and such is the interpretation put upon it by the military authorities. And as the suspension was asked by the President, it is but just to infer that it was drawn to suit him, and his exposition carries the intended meaning of the paragraph.

I am unable to see any reason consistent with the principles of a free and civilized government provided with a judiciary as a great and independent branch of its composition for suspending the *habeas corpus* in cases which involve no evasion or attempt to evade military service that is due, but which merely asks when honest opinions differ to have the point settled by those tribunals which settle all matters of controversy between citizen and citizen, and a citizen and his government. If a citizen owe not any military service to the government, he has as much right to refuse to render it, when wrongfully claimed of him, as he has to refuse to pay a debt to the government wrongfully claimed of him; and if in both cases he stands fairly up and submits to an investigation of the question before those tribunals learned in such matters and appointed because of their fitness and skill, it would be just as reasonable to suspend the writ in the alleged debt of money as in the case of the alleged debt of service. This course might, and likely would, hasten the payment of a debt just or unjust, and so it may serve to put men in the army exempt by the laws of the land.

There is no instance of a suspension at any time of the writ, or the privileges of the writ, if there be any difference between them, for any other cause, either in England or America. Many suspensions of the privileges of the writ occurred in England between the passage of the *habeas corpus* act and the Revolution, running through a period of almost a century, and they all empowered the King either to *apprehend and detain, or to secure and detain without bail*, such persons as *are suspected of conspiracy* against the King and his government.

There was a British act in 1777, which denied the writ to "persons taken in the act of high treason, committed in any of the colonies, or on the high seas or in the act of piracy, or who were charged with or suspected of any of these crimes." (Hurd, 132.)

The other suspensions in England after our revolution commenced in 1794, and continued at intervals till 1802 during the storms of the French Revolution. They are of the same character as those before, and affected those only who were charged with conspiring against the King and his government. The suspension during Shay's rebellion extended to crime or suspected crime. The attempted suspension in 1807 was confined to persons charged "with treason or other high crimes or misdemeanor, endangering the peace, safety or neutrality of the United States." The idea cannot be entertained for a moment that the power of suspending the writ was granted for any such purpose as that of depriving a citizen of the privilege of a legal enquiry and his obligation to perform military service, in order to fill the army with soldiers. If such a power exist the sovereignty of the States is at the mercy of the Confederate Government.—Where lies the relief against the conscription of the entire body of State officers? By this act it is deposited with the President alone! His officers alone can give the discharge—Confederate officers chosen without even the consent of the Senate, and removed at will. The appropriate tribunals are entirely overlooked: the State Judges are thrust aside without ceremony, and even the Confederate Judge, who holds his office during good behaviour, is ignored, and in their room is placed an officer who lives on the breath of the Confederate Executive. If the State officers are not put into the army under such power in the Executive, it is because the incumbent does not will it; and when the rights of the States shall exist by such a courtesy, they will cease to have any existence at all. It is hard to divine a sufficient reason for displacing the civil tribunals already established, and substituting others so dependent upon the Executive for their existence. The assurance of public men, that the power will not be abused, can never remove the fears of freemen, who rely only upon written Constitutions to protect their liberties. History is too full of wrong to allow them to forget for a moment that *eternal vigilance is the price of freedom.*

It is manifest that the act contemplates that the *military* shall be invested with full power to [illegible] vague and ill deferred charges mentioned; and such is the interpretation put on it by the general orders of Adjutant General Cooper, thus suspending the civil authorities throughout the land, and it is equally clear that it also contemplates that the order of the President for arresting or detaining citizens shall be a general order to arrest and detain all such as may come within the category of suspected persons—without naming or describing the individual—and each military office who may deputed for that purpose will be invested with a perfect discretion over the liberty of every citizen in the land. In substance and effect the President is intended to be empowered with authority to fill the land with military deputies who may seize any citizen without warrant or oath of probable cause, under a general warrant from the President to arrest all suspected persons. Such a warrant is without precedent in England for the last hundred years and during the entire century past has been forbidden, denounced, and declared void.

In my judgment the President is vested by the Confederate Constitution with no part of the judicial authority, except in cases arising in the land and naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service under his orders. If he is vested with a particle of civil judicial jurisdiction where is the grant of it, and how far does it extend? If he has the power to issue a warrant for the arrest of a civilian suspected of violating a law of the Confederate States, he may make it returnable and examinable before himself, and order a discharge or require a bail. It is certain that the mere suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* does not invest the President with the powers of a civil judicial magistrate, and if it could have that effect it could not give him an authority while discharging his judicial jurisdiction to lay aside the restraints imposed upon the other judges.

The course adopted by the administration of allowing the writ of *habeas corpus* to issue, and of forthwith checking the action of the judge and suspending all his farther proceedings *ad libitum*, to await the reports of military officers having custody of the petitioner to their superiors, and finally subjecting the case to the decision of the war department in derogation of civil authority, is humiliating to the independent character of the judiciary, and tends to the great danger of liberty, to familiarize the people with a military supremacy.

It must be remembered, however, that these are merely my opinions. The Supreme Court, which alone has the power to decide upon the constitutionality of the law, has not yet spoken. When it does speak, we must give heed to its voice, so long as the law remains on our statute books. But whether for constitutional reasons or reasons of mere policy, the people have a right to demand the repeal of any obnoxious law. On both grounds I recommend that you urge Congress to repeal the act suspending the privilege of *habeas corpus;* or, should you concur in the judgement of Congress, that a suspension is required by the exigencies of the times, that it should at least be modified and stripped of its unconstitutional or (at least) obnoxious features.

My opinions on this subject is well known. In the first message I had the honor to send to your body, in 1862, speaking of the then existing act authorizing a suspension of the writ, I used the following language: "I have not seen an official copy of the act, but learn from the newspapers that Congress has conferred upon the President the power to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* in all cases of arrests made by Confederate authority. If this be once admitted no man is safe from the power of one individual. He could at pleasure seize any citizen of the State, with or without excuse, throw him into prison and permit him to languish there without relief—a power that I am unwilling to see entrusted to any living man. To submit to its exercise would in my opinion, be establishing a precedent dangerous and pernicious in the extreme" &c.

There is nothing of this I am desirous of taking away or adding to. My earnest remonstrance against the passage of the present act is herewith transmitted, together with divers other letters to the Confederate authorities in relation to the execution of the civil laws, rights of the people &c., and which will convince you, I trust, that I have been equally zealous to guard against the inner as well as the outer dangers which threaten us.

Many recurring dangers of serious conflict with the Confederate government, especially in relation to the seizure of principals of substitutes after discharge by a judge, have been upon me since your session. They were fortunately avoided however; but their solution would have been easy could I but have had the assistance of the Supreme Court. I greatly regret that you did not see proper to comply with my recommendation, when you were last in session, to authorize some one to convene that body in cases of great importance, and which admit of no delay. I can but repeat it now, for many obvious reasons.

Nor have I, amid all the embarrassments and perplexities of the situation, been unmindful of the great object of all our blood and suffering—peace, or neglectful of all proper and honorable efforts to obtain it—knowing the great desire of our people to save the precious blood of their children, if by any possibility an opening might be found for the statesmen to supercede the soldier, I approached the President on the first opportunity presented by the cessation of hostilities last winter, and urged him to appoint commissioners and try what might be done by negotiations. I had little hope, indeed, of those commissioners being received by the government of our enemy, but I thought it our duty, for humanity's sake to make the effort and to convince our own suffering people that their government was tender of their lives and property and happiness.

My letter to the President last December and his reply are sent herewith for your information.

I respectfully recommend that you, as the representatives of the people of North Carolina, should lay down what you would consider a fair basis of peace, and call upon our Representatives in Congress, and those to whom is committed the power of making treaties, by the Constitution, to neglect no fitting opportunity of offering such to the enemy. These terms in my judgment should be nothing less than the independence of those States, whose destinies have been fairly united with the Confederacy by the voice of their people, and the privilege of a free choice to those which have been considered doubtful.

I presume that no honorable man or patriot could think of any thing less than independence. Less would be subjugation, ruinous and dishonorable.—Nobody at the North thinks of reconstruction, simply because it is impossible. With a constitution torn into shreds, with slavery abolished, with our property confiscated, and ourselves and our children reduced to beggary, our slaves put in possession of our lands, and invested with equal rights, social and political, and a great gulf yawning between the North and South, filled with the blood of our murdered sons, and its waves laden with the *debris* of our ruined homes, how can there be any reconstruction with the authors of these evils, or now can it be desirable if it were possible? Lincoln himself says it is not possible, so does Mr. Fillmore, a man whom we once respected, and so do nine-tenths of their orators and presses. The only terms ever offered us contained in Mr. Lincoln's infamous proclamation, were alike degrading in matter and insulting in manner, being addressed not to the authorities, Gen. [illegible] who by the very act of accepting its terms would bear from themselves the vilest of mankind.

I cannot too earnestly warn you, gentlemen, and the country, against the great danger of these insidi- ous attempts of the enemy to seduce our people into treating with him for peace, individually or by the formation of spurious States or pretended States of States. Indeed I might add, that I look upon any attempts to treat for peace, other than through the regular channels provided by our constitution, as long as our government is maintained, as almost equally dangerous. It is the real peril of the continuance and bloody character of the war, have so exhausted the patience of our people that many of them are in a condition suffering people to listen eagerly to terms of peace, without duly considering what the results would be, or how they are to be acquired. An example of this great danger is found in the attempt of the British ministry in 1778 to seduce the loyalty of our fore-fathers, from the cause of independence, by sending peace commissioners to the colonies with the propositions contained in Lord North's "conciliating bills." These bills proposed to abolish all taxation whatever upon the colonies, except what might be necessary for the regulation of commerce—the nett proceeds of which were to go to the use of the colonies, to suspend the operations of all obnoxious statutes in reference to said colonies passed since 1763, and authorized the commissioners to pardon all such persons as they should deem proper and to treat with "the existing governments or individuals." Here almost all the principal matters of disputed were conceded; but our fathers had an organized government and had set their hearts on independence. Yet the terms offered were so fair, that but for the firmness and wisdom of the great and good George Washington, and the unflinching patriotism of Congress the fate of the continent might have been changed; so great was the weariness of the people and so gloomy were the prospects. The danger of allowing commissioners to address themselves to anybody but Congress was so great as well as such a violation of the laws of war and international courtesy, that that body, after promptly rejecting the propositions and declaring that "the only solid proof" of a disposition on the part of the crown to make an honorable peace with the colonies, "would be an explicit acknowledgement of the independence of these States, or the withdrawal of the fleets and armies"—went on solemnly to declare the measure "to be contrary to the law of nations, and utterly subversive of that confidence which could alone maintain those means which had been invented to alleviate the horrors of war, *and that, therefore, the persons employed to distribute such papers were not entitled to the protection of a flag.*"

General Washington was so astonished and indignant, that on its first appearing, he was induced to regard it as a forgery, and in a letter to the President of Congress, he used the following language, remarkable for its severity, coming from him: "The enclosed draft of a bill was brought to Headquarters yesterday afternoon by a gentleman, who informed me that a large cargo of them had just been sent out of Philadelphia. Whether this insidious proceeding is genuine and imported in the packet, or contrived in Philadelphia, is a point undetermined and immaterial; but it is certainly founded in principles of the most wicked, diabolical baseness, and meant to poison the minds of the people, and detach the wavering at least from our cause." And again; "The necessity of putting the army on a respectable footing, both as to numbers and constitution, is now become more essential than ever. The enemy are beginning to play a game more dangerous than their efforts by arms (though these will not be remitted in the smallest degree,) which threatens a fatal blow to the independence of America, and of course to her liberties. *They are endeavoring to ensnare the people by specious allurements of peace.* It is not improbable they have had such abundant cause to be tired of the war, that they may be insincere in the terms which they offer, which, though far short of our pretensions, will be extremely flattering to minds that do not penetrate far into political consequences; but whether they are sincere or not, they may be equally destructive if fatal to discerning men nothing can be more evident than that a peace on the principles of *dependence, however limited, after what has happened, would be to the last degree dishonorable and ruinous.* * * * *

It is doubtful whether many of our friends might not incline to an accommodation on the grounds told out, or which may be, rather than persevere in a contest for independence.

If this is the case it must surely be the truest policy to strengthen the army, and place it upon a substantial footing. This will conduce to inspire the country with confidence; * * * and if a treaty should be deemed expedient, will put it in their power to insist upon better terms than they could otherwise expect."

By such timely counsel did the great Washington sustain the cause of *independence*—buoying up the hopes of our ancestors and laboring to meet those insidious attempts of the British to decoy them into the dangers of seeking peace by irregular and revolutionary methods. Again, in another letter to the same person, he says: "It seems to me nothing short of independence can possibly do. The injuries we have received from Britain can never be forgotten, and a peace upon other terms would be the *source of perpetual feuds and animosities* in the civilized world, wherever *liberty* is worshipped, and with one voice thanked God for the gift. Washington—should we, his countrymen—reject the fruits of the blessings of his wisdom and valor refuse to heed his warning voice!

Strange as it may seem, these "specious allurements of peace," described and denounced by Gen. Washington, have not been presented by the enemy. We are trying to delude ourselves. So great is the hostility, and so furious the fanaticism of the dominant party at the North, that they have not even offered us terms that could be regarded by the most timid and wavering as "alluring." Lincoln's proclamation is so grossly outrageous and so repugnant to our every idea of liberty, property and honor, as to ensure the rejection of the terms it holds out, while it adds weight and gives a tone of authority to the oft repeated assertions of their public men, and presses that they want no compromise but will only be content with our subjugation. If our enemy were really willing, under any circumstances, to compromise with us upon any terms short of abject submission, they would certainly say so, and that to those, whom they know to be authorized to entertain their propositions. The insidious attempts to invoke separate, individual and State action, proves this conclusively, and can have no other intention than to plunge us into civil war and subjugate us beyond redemption. How strange then to think, as some of our people honestly do, that the very plan proposed by the enemy for our destruction, is the best way to secure a speedy and honorable peace! I respectfully submit that any plan, based on the wisdom and patriotism of Washington, and the universal teaching of history—to strengthen and sustain the army, and rotate through the proper channels—is the safer and the better one.

It seems to me that the safe, true and conservative path through all our troubles, lies in guarding alike against the destruction of law and liberty on the one hand, and the impatience of the people of the burdens of war, on the other, while both hands and with all our [illegible] and maintain those, who, even as I write, are battling and bleeding for the rights and independence of their country. I confess I am not of those, who seem to think *the greatest* danger to our rights and liberties is from our own people

and our own government. While struggling to resist the invincible tend nces of revolution to destroy civi fr m a home, I cannot f
from without threatens the destruction of *every thing* that there
Northern bloody despotism, fierce and infidel, gory with the people's blood and blackened by the smoke of their burning homes, with hordes of armed slaves this s ting to complete the demoniac work of wasting and destroyi g, and planting o sow salt in the furrows of the plowshare of desolation, as it runs over our razed cities, and in w se march to ms of law, constitutional free government, ho e, home, property, all go down to rise no more, till God shall implant i the bosoms of a new gener tion the p i cipl a of liberty and love of peace, which this, in its ma ness, has cast off.

In addition to the many brilliant victories which has crowned our arms during the spring in all parts of the Confederacy, I have the pleasure to congratulate you upon the very special success of the opening of the campaign in our own State, resulting in the re-capture of the towns of Plymouth and Washington, and the rescue of a considerable portion of our territory from the enemy. This is the more gratifying because it was accomplished by troops under the command of two distinguished sons of North Carolina Brigadier, now Major General Hoke commanding the land forces, and Commander Cooke, with the steamram Ashemarle. I doubt not but that you will see the propriety of rendering suitable thanks to these gallant officers and the brave officers and men under their command for the conspicuous part in which has been rewarded by such splendid results. We cordially and gladly welcome back our fellow-citizens of that region, to us rescued from the enemy, to the embraces of their mother State, and thank them for their steadfast adherence to our cause under the tyranny and oppression of our foe. Indeed, it is gratifying to observe the very great loyalty and patriotism that while portion of our State within or contiguous to the enemy's lines which has been alike subjected to his blandishments and his ravages. May the day speedily come when our jurisdiction shall again extend to the sands of Atlantic.

Several other matters, which I deem it unnecessary to to specify, will claim the useives upon your attention.

In regard to financial matters, the interesting report of the Public Treasurer is so full and complete that I am content merely to refer you to it, confident that I could not improve upon any of his suggestions, which I, in the main, endorse.

The poor, especially the indigent families of our soldiers, still demand our care. It is justly conceded that when they are not able to support themselves the State should support them in the absence of their natural protectors. I cannot, however, make any specific recommendation for their further relief, but should any plan occur to your superior wisdom, I doubt not but you will promptly act upon it. It will be very difficult for many of them to struggle through till harvest, especially in some of the counties of the west, which have been preyed upon alike by friend and foe.

Trusting that harmony will prevail in your counsels, and that much good may, under God, result to the country therefrom, I close my message with an expression of readiness to co-operate with you—should it lie in my power—in the execution of the labors devolving upon you.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, May 17th 1864. Z. B. VANCE

FREE PRESS—FREE SPEECH—FREEDOM.

The readers of this journal need not be told that we have, until within the past few weeks, had very little to say in dissent from the views of the Administration. It has been generally our pleasure to be silent in regard to the measures adopted by the same. But while doing this we did not bind ourselves to an unquestioning acquiescence in every expedient which it might propose to the country. We have always and shall always claim the liberty of opposing measures which we believe to be prejudicial to the success of the great struggle in which we are engaged, or which may imperil the very privileges for which we are contending. We shall, in doing so propose no counter revolution at home. It is no time for such disturbance when a gigantic enemy is pressing us with relentless fury at every point. But we shall assert the prerogative—claimed by all people who are not in the most abject vassalage—of a temperate criticism of that which involves our own happiness in common with the whole, of applauding or condemning as the public good demands.

Free speech and a free press constitute the palladium of civil liberty. While these are preserved, the inestimable blessing cannot be destroyed. The first aim of tyrants and usurpers is to strike down the right which they know to be most inimical to the success of their plans. Under the despotic sway of Abraham Lincoln the minions of the people have been muzzled and refractory presses have been silenced. But we have lived through three years of revolution, and though our people have spoken and written with the independence of freemen, yet there has as yet been but little interference with the liberty of the Press. This is well. The rights of the people cannot be permanently undermined whilst free discussion is maintained.

In the mighty revolution in which we are engaged, we need all the assistance which can be secured from every heart which is loyal to the cause. We want all the material resources which the country can supply. We need all the wisdom and valor of our soldiers in the field, and all the prudence and vigilance of our Legislators and Executives at home. We need, moreover, all the light which can possibly be contributed to the advancement of the cause from every intelligent mind. We would have every ray of mind throughout the country converged into one grand focal blaze and thrown upon the difficult problems which we are engaged in solving. There is but one way, however, by which this can be done; and that is a free discussion of all the subjects which are agitating us. Let us hold no man to be so infallible that his opinions may not be controverted. Let the chief Executive as well as the State Executives be watched. Let the acts of our national and State Legislative bodies be closely scrutinized. Let rulers of every grade be held responsible to the people—the power from whence their authority is derived. "Eternal vigilance" it was said long ago, "is the price of liberty." The remark holds still in its full force. But free speech is the eye of this vigilance. Extinguish this, and the extinction of liberty follows with a certainty as the effect follows the cause in the natural world.—*Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel.*

The Doors to the Soldiers' Orphan Fund

ARE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED TO MEET IN THE Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Raleigh, N. C., on Friday, 27th May, at 11 o'clock, A. M. Those who cannot be present, should send proxies. A full attendance is desired for important business.

The Committee of the Grand Lodge of Masons for St. John's College are respectfully invited to be present.

CHARLES DEEMS, Financial Secretary.

Raleigh, May 2d, 1864. 9—d 2t—wt 27 may.

DAILY PRAYER MEETING!

THE CAUSE AND THE CRISIS DEMAND IT.

A PRAYER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE Methodist Church, in this City, Daily, at 5 o'clock, P. M.

All Christians and the public are respectfully invited.

Come promptly. Don't wait for the bell—no bell will be rung.

Raleigh N. C. May 5th, 1864. 12—tf

JOHN G. WILLIAMS & Co.,

STOCK AND MONEY BROKERS,

Raleigh, N. C.,

CONTINUES TO CARRY ON THE BROKERAGE BUSINESS at their old stand as heretofore in all its various branches.

MINERS WANTED.

NAVY MINING BUREAU, C. S. N., WARRENTON, N. C., 18th April, 1864.

THOSE PERSONS SKILLED IN THE BUSINESS can find profitable employment by applying to Capt A. B. FAIRFAX, C. S. N., by letter at Warrenton, or to

W. W PEIRCE, Maj. & Chief Q. M., Raleigh, N. C.

WAYSIDE HOSPITAL,

GREENSBORO', N. C., MAY 2D, 1864.

BY ORDERS FROM DR. EDWARD WARREN, Surg. General for the State of North Carolina, I have opened a WAYSIDE HOSPITAL in the town of Greensboro', N. C., where all Sick and Wounded Soldiers traveling can find a resting place.

J. L. NEAGLE, Asst. Surg. in charge.

11—tf.

THE DAILY CONSERVATIVE.

RALEIGH, N. C., MAY —, 1864.

FOR GOVERNOR:

Z. B. VANCE,

OF BUNCOMBE

CHANGE OF TERMS.—In consequence of the high price of paper, and everything necessary to carry on our establishment, we change our terms from this date as follows:

Daily paper	1 month,	$ 3 00
"	3 months,	8 00
"	6 months,	15 00
Weekly paper.	3 months,	3 00
"	6 months,	5 00

Always to be paid in advance, and paper stopped when the time paid for expires.

THE TRUE CONSERVATIVE PLATFORM.—The supremacy of the civil over military law.

A speedy repeal of the act suspending the writ of HABEAS CORPUS.

A quiet submission to all laws, whether good or bad, which they remain upon our statute books.

No reconstruction, or anumission, but perpetual independence.

An unbroken front to the common enemy; but timely and repeated negotiations for PEACE by the proper authorities.

No separate State action through a Convention; no counter revolution; no combined resistance to the government.

Opposition to despotism in every form, and the preservation of Republican institutions in all their purity.

☞ BUSINESS NOTICE.—As we can no longer use Five Dollar Treasury notes at PAR, we shall be compelled, from and after this date, to take them at the same discount the larger notes of the old issue are subject to. We regret this necessity, but as everybody else is doing the same thing, we have no other alternative.

May 9th, 1864.

GOV. VANCE

Will address the people of JOHNSTON COUNTY, at SMITHFIELD, on Monday next, the 23d instant

On Tuesday, the 24th, he will address the people of ORANGE COUNTY, at HILLSBORO'.

Mr. Holden an "Original Secessionist."

The contest is between a national and a sectional party, and the issue is UNION or DISUNION.—W. W. HOLDEN, August 20th, 1858.

All Southern men feel that Mr Fillmore's election would not, in itself, destroy the Union; while all Southern men feel that the election of Fremont would be the sure precursor of dissolution and probably of civil war.—W. W. HOLDEN, Sept 10th, 1856.

Can it be possible that there are men in the South who prefer Fremont for the Presidency, or who would acquiesce in his election? * * * It may be that there are TRAITORS, HERE AND THERE, IN THIS STATE, as there were TORIES in the Revolution, who would thus deliver up their native land to the fury of the fanatic and the torch of the incendiary; but they are few and far between. * * *

The election of Fremont would inevitably lead to a separation of the States. Even if no overt or direct act of dissolution should take place, he could not carry on the government in the South. No true or decent Southern man would accept office under him; and our people would never submit to have their post offices, custom houses and the like filled with Fremont's Yankee aboli tionists. We would not expect or ask the Northern people to submit in a similar case—and WE WILL NOT SUBMIT. Suppose, for example, the Southern people having the power to elect a President, should nominate a candidate on sectional grounds, pledged to wield all the powers of the federal government to extend and perpetuate domestic slavery, and pledged to measures of gross aggression, without regard to the Constitution, or the rights and property of the Northern people; and suppose they should elect such a candidate—what would the North do? They would resist it, and THEY OUGHT TO RESIST IT. They would regard it as a virtual dissolution of the Union, and would act accordingly. The Union can neither be maintained, nor can it exist on sectional grounds. If there be Fremont men among us, let them be silenced or required to leave. THE EXPRESSION OF BLACK REPUBLICAN OPINIONS IN OUR MIDST, IS INCOMPATABLE WITH OUR HONOR AND SAFETY AS A PEOPLE. * * Let our schools and seminaries of learning be scrutinized; and if Black Republicans be found in them, let them be driven out. THAT MAN IS NEITHER A FIT NOR A SAFE INSTRUCTOR OF OUR YOUNG MEN, WHO EVEN INCLINES TO FREMONT AND BLACK REPUBLICANISM.—W. W. HOLDEN, 17th September, 1856.

Fremont and Dayton have no electoral ticket in the slaveholding States, nor will they have. They are utterly sectional in their character. They stand upon a platform which makes them and their supporters "the natural enemies of every man, woman and child in the Southern States." We regard them as personal, mortal enemies. If they should succeed in this contest, as we do not believe they will, the result will be a separation of the States. No human power can prevent it. If some of the Southern States should be disposed to wait and see what the wolf would do with the lamb, or the hawk with the dove, others will not—SOUTH CAROLINA, ALABAMA and GEORGIA, not to inc lude VIRGINIA, would place themselves in such an attitude as at once to sever existing political relations. And then what would Fremont, and the vultures of the Times, the Tribune, and the Herald do? "Whip us in?"—Perhaps they would attempt to send troops, but there are enough true men in the free States to rise and exterminate the troops, and their traitor leaders on their own ground—Dissolve the Union by the act of the North, and the North would, in less than six months, by its own act, and by a reversal of its judgment restore it again if it could. * * They (Fremont and his supporters) would repeal the Fugitive Slave law, leaving Southern men no protection against kidnappers and manstealers. They would create insurrection and servile war in the South; they would put the torch to our dwellings and the knife to our throats. They are, therefore, our enemies; and they are the enemies of the Constitution and the Union. Their triumph would be the beginning of evils and calamities such as have never been known in this country.—W. W. HOLDEN, Sept. 20th, 1856.

If the white people of the Senate should do—what is impossible—if they should make up their mind to submit for the sake of the Union, to the rule and to the measures of such men as FREMONT and BANKS, and GIDDINGS, and BURLINGAME, THEY WILL DESERVE ALL THE DEEP AND UNSPEAKABLE DEGRADATION TO WHICH THEY WILL DESCEND—even the true Constitutional men of the North, who are now contending for us as we now [illegible] and who are keeping the battle from our own hearthstones, will regard them with pity and scorn, and THEIR VERY SLAVES WILL JEER THEM FOR THEIR MEANNESS, IMBECILITY AND COWARDICE.—W. W. HOLDEN, Oct. 1st. 1856

* * * We shall not reflect upon the intelligence of our readers, nor upon their devotion to the Constitution and the rights of North Carolina, by recurring with any person who would SUBMIT TO JOHN C. FREMONT'S ELECTION. * * *

MR. RAYNER, a Southern man, says the South ought to submit to Fremont's election and that those who counsel otherwise are traitors. Mr. Fillmore, a Northern man, has declared that the South OUGHT NOT TO SUBMIT, and that the triumph of Fremont would lead inevitably to the destruction of the Union. THERE ARE KNOW NOTHINGS in North Carolina who agree with MR. RAYNER—NOT MANY THANK GOD!—W. W. HOLDEN, 5th Nov., 1856.

The Editor of the Progress "an Original Secessionist."

* * We insist then that the only way now left by which we can induce the North to respect our rights and acknowledge our importance is for *every Southern State to dissolve its connection with the Union as soon as possible.* * * *

Prayers and supplications for the Union now are like penance and tribute for the souls of the departed; they may tend to relieve the consciences of those who offer them, but will be of no service to those who are lost. THE UNION IS GONE.—*Progress 25th January* 1861.

* * *We are for secession, then, at this time to arrest Revolution.* We have no desire or inclination to discuss the wisdom or the policy or justice of such a course—whether it should have been commenced or not, or who is to blame—for our views have been freely given on all those questions, but they were given at a time when we considered discussion admissible, but now the day for that has passed, and ACTION! ACTION! should be the rallying cry for every Southern State, and of every Southern man.—*Progress January 29th* 1861.

* * North Carolina and Virginia will go. * * They wanted to stay in, but the thieving party which you (Greely) lead would not let them, and so they are preparing to go out, and will be out before the 4th of March.—*Progress same date.*

The *Register* sees no cause why this State should secede now. Well, perhaps not. * * * Would it have North Carolina still prostrate itself over the dead carcass of the UNION, and utter prayers for its *preservation*; or would that paper have the State act as becomes an independent sovereignty?—*Progress same date*

* * NOR H CAROLINA *must go out and so must all the border Slave States.* * * *

It is folly to talk about saving the Union now and the attempt to do it will be the surest means of bringing on a revolution. The Southern States that have gone out have gone to stay and it is folly to talk about bringing them back.—*Progress February* 20, 1861.

* * WE ARE FOR NORTH CAROLINA GOING OUT, AS SOON AS HER CONVENTION ASSEMBLES. * * * * —*Progress February* 23d, 1861.

* * The question now is, not UNION or DISUNION and he who makes that issue makes a false one; the UNION being already destroyed there is no longer any to save.—*Progress same date.*

* * The *Standard* can gently chide us now for declaring that the Union is already dissolved, and that as between an association with the North and the South the border slave States should go to the latter; but last summer, when there *was* a Union, and when we were denouncing the disunion nomination made at Richmond, and Yancey and all who sympathised with it as enemies to that *Union*, the *Standard* was trying to give a seeming treasonous support to Breckinridge and cousin Jo. Lane.—*Progress, March 22d,* 1861.

The Legislature.

According to adjournment, the Legislature of this State convened in this city on yesterday. There [illegible] quorum in both branches, they organized [illegible] the reading of which [illegible] siderable length of time. Documents consumed a [illegible] message was not The Senate having adjourn[illegible] sent in to that body.

To the exclusion of nearly everything else we publish the Message entire. It is a wise and sound paper, and we commend it to the careful consideration of the public.

THE ADVANCE.—A dispatch received in this city yesterday, assures us that the cargo of the steamer Advance, consisting of shoes blankets and cotton cards, is safe, and that Col Crossan, commander of the ship, has strong hopes of saving the vessel. The weather was good yesterday and we hope the steamer is off the beach and in the port before this time.

Gov. Vance has been doing a good work, and the soldiers and people will bless him. Shoes and blankets for the soldiers in the field and cotton cards for their mothers, wives and sisters at home! Even if the ship is lost the cargo will prove a great blessing to our people.—*Progress.*

Such was the language of praise employed by our neighbor towards Gov. VANCE while he conducted his paper on independent grounds. If Gov. VANCE was worthy of being blessed by the soldiers and the people, when the above was written, he is equally so now. He has since done nothing to forfeit the confidence of either, but, on the contrary, has done much to establish himself still more firmly in the affections and confidence of the people whether in the army or out of it. The effort is now being made by Mr. HOLDEN and his satellites to employ the means of Gov. VANCE'S chief usefulness as their Executive in these times of trouble and privation to his detriment and to circumvent his defeat. Such conduct on the part of Mr HOLDEN is wicked and iniquitious in the extreme. The gross misrepresentations and slanders now manufactured for party purposes against Gov. VANCE may, in the absence of better information, mislead and deceive many honest people and induce them to vote for Mr. HOLDEN; but there will be a day of reckoning—of fearful retribution.

☞ A. M. BOGLE, Esq., of Alexander county, is a candidate for the State Senate, to represent the district composed of the counties of Iredell, Alexandria, and Wilkes. Mr BOGLE is a Conservative in politics, and if elected would make an excellent and useful member of the Senate.

FROM THE TRANS MISSISSIPPI, VIA HAVANA AND NASSAU

We have been kindly favored, says the Wilmington *Journal*, with a copy of the following letter, written in Nassau on the 9th instant. It confirms former reports brought through other channels. The writer, Major Heyliger, is Confederate agent at Nassau:

Capt. CARTER, STEAMER COQUETTE,

Dear Sir: I hasten to communicate to you the latest news from the Trans Mississippi Department.

The Harriett Lane and Isabel arrived at Havana on the 6th, from Texas, bringing 900 bales of cotton. The accounts are absolutely glorious. Smith and Price have almost demolished Banks and Steele; they have had many engagements; our troops successful in every action. The aggregate number of prisoners taken not less than 10,000, 41 pieces of cannon, 1,000 wagons, horses and mules innumerable have fallen into our hands.

Capt. Scott, who has just arrived on the Harriett Lane, says it is probable both the Federal armies will be captured. We have taken three gunboats, destroyed several, and Dick Taylor says he will yet take them all. Our loss in one or two engagements was heavy.

Wishing you, my dear sir, a prosperous voyage and speedy return, I remain

Very faithfully yours,

L. HEYLIGER.

No judicious lover of freedom ever denied the propriety of temporarily sacrificing a portion of that freedom in order permanently to secure it all. The only question such a man would feel inclined to raise is whether the sacrifice be really necessary; and if so, how much of the precious estate was requisite to attain the purpose. Aware of this, we have never doubted for a moment the constitutionality of the suspension of the *habeas corpus*; and we are now disposed even to concede that there may have been and that there may be still grounds for the suspension of that Act which we have not been able to divine. It is not, therefore, with reference to this particular measure or to any other, that we wish to drop a few general words of caution with regard to the present predominance of the military power. The predominance is slight in comparison to what it is at the North, yet nobody can refuse to see that there is a growing tendency upon the part of our authorities to increase it, and a growing tendency upon the part of the people to submit to its increase. There may be no danger in this, for, as a nation, we still preserve, in all their integrity, our wholesome opinions of constitutional law, and it is not unlikely that at the close of the revolution there may be still left health enough in the body politic to prevent such deleterious consequences as, in most countries, would certainly follow from this state of things. Nevertheless, we should be careful how we tamper any more than we can avoid, with the civil liberties which we have hitherto enjoyed. Habits of mind are acquired almost as easily by nations as by individuals, and we may become a little too accustomed to the thought of arbitrary rule, and a little too contented with a limited share of our lawful franchises. We must not be altogether deaf to the warning which lies in the fact that the history of most republics has culminated in despotism. Such, too, will surely be the culmination of the bigotry of our Northern antagonists, who once supposed themselves, and, in truth, whom we, too, once supposed, as safe from so ignominious a fate as we flatter ourselves we are at this day. It is true we have a conservative element amidst us which we have good and philosophical reasons to believe may conduce to make us an exceptional case. But, even with the assurance which this fact supplies us, we do not be more confident that we shall never fall as republics have hitherto fallen, than, with a few exceptions, we were not many years ago, that we lived under the best government the world ever saw. The ways of Providence are inscrutable—to paths of nations, as of sinners, are slippery, and we must walk warily and watch narrowly, lest we trip and stumble into some unexpected abyss.—*Daily Carolinian*

A conundrum has been going the round of society in London. It runs thus: My first expresses numbers; my second magnifies; my whole destroys numbers. The solution of the riddle is found in the word, Colenso.

An old gentleman who had dabbled all his life in statistics, says that he has never heard of but one woman who insured her life. He accounts for this by the singular fact of the question being asked them—"What is your age?"

Petipa, the great master of French ballet, is appointed teacher of the Prince Imperial in the art of dancing.

A house in London newly built and in good order, to let on lease for thirty years, is there valued at thirteen times its annual rental.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, May 17, 1864.

The Senate met to-day in adjourned session. Mr. Speaker [illegible] presiding. Prayer by Dr. Deems, [illegible] church.

[illegible] members. Those marked * were absent.

Mr. Speaker, Adams, of Davidson, *Adams, of Guilford, Arendell, Aycock, Bagley, Bell, *Blount, *Bryden, *Brown, *Carraway, *Copeland, Dickson, Ellis, *Eure, Faison, Hall, Harris, of Franklin, Harris, of Rutherford, *Hoke, Holeman, Jarratt, Jones, Lassiter, Leach, Lindsay, *Matthews, Melvin, Neal, Outlaw, Patton, Patrick, Pitchford, *Powell, Sanders, Simpson, *Searle, *Slaughter, *Smith, of Anson, *Smith, of Macon, *Smith, of Sandy, *Taylor, of [illegible], Thomas, *Wooley, *Wright, Young.

A quorum being present, on motion, the House of Commons was informed of the fact; also a message was received from the House informing the Senate that a quorum of that body was present and prepared to go on the dispatch of public business.

On motion of Senator Simpson, a resolution was adopted to raise a joint committee of both Houses to wait on his Excellency, the Governor, and inform him that both Houses were ready to receive any communication which he had to make. The House concurring, the following gentlemen were appointed on said committee by the Senate—viz: Messrs. Simpson and Jones.

Senator J. Berry, of Orange, was appointed in place of Hon. W. Graham, on the Finance Committee.

On motion, adjourned till to-morrow 10 o'clock, A. M.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House was called to order at 11½ o'clock by the speaker.

The roll being called, sixty-nine members answered to their names—a quorum being present.

On motion of Mr. Shepherd, it was ordered that a message be sent to the Senate informing that body of the organization of the House and its readiness to execute any joint order.

Mr. Leathers, member elect from Orange, and Mr. Reinhart, member elect from Catawaba, appeared and were qualified.

On motion of Mr Grissom, leave of absence was granted to the Principal Clerk for an indefinite time.

A message was received from the Senate announcing the organization of that body and proposing to raise a joint select committee of two on the part of each House to wait upon his Excellency, the Governor, and inform him that the General Assembly was organized, and ready to receive such communications as he might desire to make to them.

The House concurred in the proposition, and Messrs. Shepherd and Shober were appointed the House branch of said committee.

Mr Shepherd reported that the Committee had waited upon the Governor, and that he would communicate with the House at 12 o'clock.

The reading of the message occupied most of the session.

On motion of Mr. Shepherd, the message and accompanying documents were ordered to be transmitted to the Senate with a proposition to print the same.

Mr. Russel, of Brunswick, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Committee of Finance occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Berry.

On motion of Mr. Avera, the House adjourned until 11 o'clock to-morrow.

PUBLIC MEETING IN FRANKLINTON.

At a meeting of the citizens of Franklinton, and the vicinity, held in Franklinton on Saturday, the 14th inst., on motion of John H. Whitfield, Geo. W. Neal was called to the Chair, and John D. H. Young appointed Secretary.

The Chairman explained the object of the meeting in a brief and forcible speech.

On motion the Chairman appointed a committee of three, viz: John H. Whitfield, S. D. Beves and D. J. F. Moss, to draft resolutions for the meeting. During the absence of the committee, the Rev. Williamson Harris was called for and responded to the call with some very impressive and appropriate remarks.

The committee then returned, and reported through J. H. Whitfield the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the eloquent and patriotic speech of Gov. Vance, delivered at Wilkesboro', was worthy of his Excellency, and is expressive of our feelings and sentiments upon the condition of the country, and what patriotic duty requires of us in this gigantic struggle for our independence.

Resolved, That we are opposed to a Convention as unwise and unnecessary; inconsistent with the position we should occupy with our sister States of the Confederacy, and would have a tendency to invite the enemy to North Carolina, and if not hazard our cause, subject our people to still farther losses, privations and sufferings.

Resolved, That we will give him, in the coming gubernatorial election, our cordial and earnest support, with full confidence in his patriotism and Executive ability.

Resolved, That a committee of three persons be appointed by the chair to correspond with Gov. Vance and invite him to address the citizens of Franklin, at Franklinton, on the first day of June next, or some other day that may best suit his convenience.

The chair appointed S. D Beves, R. S. Harris and J. H. Whitfield a committee of invitation.

On motion it was ordered that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Raleigh *Conservative* and *Confederate*.

There being no further business, on motion of Jos Keany, the meeting adjourned

GEO. W. NEAL, Chairman.

J. D. H. YOUNG, Secretary.

SPICY—WHAT A BOSTON GIRL WANTS.

The editress of the Boston *Olive Branch*, having received a communication from Nashville, Tennessee, inquiring whether some female printers could be obtained there to go to Nashville, replied as follows:

Every girl in Boston, who is old enough to work in a printing office, has a lover, whom she would be just as likely to trade off for a Tennessee article as she would to swap him for a grizzly bear—The idea of a Boston girl, who goes to operas, patronizes Julien's concerts, waltzes once a week, eats ice cream, rides in omnibus, wears satin slippers, and sometimes kisses the editor, going to Tennessee, except she goes as the wife of one of your first citizens, (editors excepted,) is truly ridiculous. Would not a girl in a nice silk dress, pantaletts, and shiny gaiter boots look well trudging through the mud and mire of Nashville, to an old roost of a printing office, the walls of which are covered with posters offering rewards for runaway niggers, while in one corner of the room two old darkies are jerking away at a Ramag press, and in the other the editor squirting tobacco juice all over the floor! Wouldn't she be in a nice fix when the editor and some great brute of a fellow, whom he had offended, got to play at the game of shooting their revolvers at each other's head? Who would make the fire when the devil had run off or the editor was drunk? Who would go home with her dark nights? Who would take her out to ride on Sunday afternoons, and go to church with her on Sunday? No, sir—a Boston girl would not go to Tennessee for love or money; she can get enough of both nearer home.

Telegraphic News.

[REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.]

S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's Office of the District of the Confederate States of the Northern District of Georgia.

From Petersburg.

PETERSBURG, MAY 16th.—Heaving firing was heard this morning at Drewry's Bluff, and between [illegible] farm.

The enemy are near Bell field, on both sides of the road to Weldon.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

PETERSBURG, MAY 16th.—11:30 a. m.—Many [illegible] have been taken.

New York papers of the 13th [illegible]. The House [illegible] the loss of twenty-[illegible] on Monday.

Gold [illegible] in New York.

[THIRD DISPATCH.]

PETERSBURG, MAY 16th.—The operations to-day [illegible] were entirely successful. The enemy were driven [illegible] miles, losing many wagons and ambulances. Our loss not over thirty. Gen. Dearing made a gallant charge at Chester, capturing a strong position and many prisoners. Gen. Beauregard drove back the centre, leaving one the Yankees on the field. General Ransom had turned their right flank at noon. The Yankee General Hickman was captured.

The enemy were repulsed with a loss of 20,000 at Spottsylvania C. H. on Thursday by Mahone's and Lane's brigades.

From Mobile.

MOBILE, MAY 16th.—Special dispatch to the Advertiser and Register, dated Brookhaven 16th, states that news from Natchez direct, says Banks surrendered unconditionally to Taylor.

The Federals say he did it for spite, being superseded by McArthur.

Rumors say our men were brutally murdered by Van Dunean after being taken prisoners, which seem to be confirmed, as it is talked of in Natchez as retaliating for the Fort Pillow affair.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

MOBILE, MAY 17th.—A dispatch from the operator at Holly Springs, on the 16th, via Jackson, reports on authority, that the Chicago "Times" of the 12th, admits Grant's losses in the Virginia fights, at twenty-seven thousand, including ten General officers.

General purport of the news admits Grant's defeat.

Zangopa [illegible] dates of the 16th, reports that Forrest made a dash on Springfield Landing, below Port Hudson, on the 15th, capturing twenty negroes sixty mules, and seven horses.

We lost Capt. Ambrose, of the 10th Louisiana battery. Federal loss unknown.

Firing heard to-night in the direction of Bayou Sara.

From Meridian.

MERIDIAN, MAY 16th.—Trans-Mississippi advices confirm former rumors of Banks' surrender at Alexandria.

The Yankee raid reported at Pickens' Station on the Mississippi Central Railroad, has turned back, after destroying four Railroad bridges.

Yankees gone back by way of Yazoo City.

A FEW IMPORTANT FACTS

IN REGARD TO

THE "SOUTHERN HEPATIC PILLS."

1. THEY ARE PREPARED FROM THE BEST QUALITY of Medicines by the discoverer, now an aged Minister of the Gospel, and are safe.

2. They have been known for years and tested by thousands.

3. Five hundred persons are known to have been cured by them.

4. They are not recommended by the proprietor for everything, but only for diseases which arise from disordered livers.

5. Directions and certificates accompany each box, and these certificates are from well known and most respectable individuals.

6. Correspondents recommend them as good for Liver Disease, Chills and Fevers, Pneumonia, Jaundice, Dyspepsia, Billious Fevers, Billious Rheumatism, Worms, Pleurisy, Bronchitis, &c.

7. Several gentlemen state that the use of these Pills has been to them an annual saving of from $100 to $500; they are the best plantation medicine ever offered to the public.

8. Some physicians of the highest standing prescribe them to their patients, and hundreds of boxes have been sold to regular practitioners.

9. During the last quarter 2,880 boxes have been sold to two Druggists, one in South Carolina, and one in North Carolina, and some time ago over 3,700 boxes were ordered by Druggists in one town in Virginia.

☞ Price, $3 a box. For $30 a dozen boxes will be sent to any address. A very liberal discount to Druggists and country merchants. Cash (new currency) to accompany orders.

Address, GEORGE W. REEMS, Columbia, S. C.

16—w&d5t.

HILLSBORO' N. C. MILITARY ACADEMY.

THE SECOND SESSION (1864) OF THIS INSTITUTION will commence July 1st.

For circulars and information, apply to Maj. WM. M. GORDON, Superintendent.

May 16, 21—3m.

BANK OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF this Bank, will be held on the second Tuesday in June next, (being the 9th,) at their Banking house in the City of Raleigh. C. DEWEY, Cashier.

Raleigh, May 2d, 1864. 9—tw1d.

GOVERNMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

His Excellency, Zebulon B Vance, Buncombe, Governor
Col David A Barnes, Northampton, Aid.
do George Little, Wake. do
Richard H Battle, Jr, Anson, Private Secretary.
Dr Edward Warren, Chowan, Surgeon General.
John P H Russ, Wake, Secretary of State.
Jonathan Worth, Randolph, Public Treasurer.
Curtis H Brogden, Wayne, Comptroller.
Samuel F Phillips, Orange, Auditor.
Oliver H Perry, Wake, State Librarian.
Major General R C Gatlin, Lenoir, Adjutant General.
Major William B Gulick, Beaufort, Paymaster.
Major John Devereux Wake, Quartermaster.
Major Thomas D Hogg, Wake, Commissary and Ordnance Officer.
Major James Sloan, Guilford, Quartermaster.
Major Henry A Dowd, Edgecombe, do
Major James H Foote, Asst. Adj. Gen., (Roll of Honor.)
Major William A Graham, Jun Ass't Adjt. General.
Lieut. Josiah Collins, Washington county, Ordnance Department.
Lieut John B Neathery, Wake, Asst. Adjt General.
Lieut. Thomas W Ifte, Franklin, Asst Quartermaster.
Lieut. Isaac W. Garrett, Edgecombe Asst Quartermaster.
Lieut. Thaddeus McGee, Wake Asst. Commissary.
Lieut. Charles H. Thompson, Wake, Asst. Commissary.

JUDICIAL.

Supreme Court.—Richmond M Pearson, Yadkin, Chief Justice.—William H Battle, Orange, and Matthias E Manly, of Craven, Judges; John H Rogers, Wake, Attorney General; Hamilton C Jones, Rowan, Reporter; Edmund B Freeman, Clerk. [Meets in the city of Raleigh second Monday in June each year. The Morganton term has been discontinued.]

Superior Courts.—Judges.—Edwin G Reade, Person, Romulus M Saunders, Wake; Robert M Saunders, Chowan; Robt S French, Robeson; James W Osborne, Mecklenburg; George Howard Wilson; Robert B Gilliam, Granville; William M Shipp, Henderson.

Solicitors.—1st Circuit, Jesse J Yeates, Hertford; 2nd Circuit, Charles C Clark, Craven; 3rd Circuit, Silas H Rogers, Wake, Attorney General; 4th Circuit Thomas Settle Rockingham; 5th Circuit Ralph H[illegible], Cumberland; 6th Circuit, Robert F Armfield, Yadkin; 7th Circuit, William P Bynum; 8th Circuit, Augustus Merrimon, Buncombe.

Confederate States District Court.—Hon Asa Biggs, Martin, Judge; George V Strong, Wayne, Attorney; W F Watson, Craven, Clerk; Wesley Jones, Wake, Marshall.

Council of State.—F B Satterthwaite, [illegible]; Robert P Dick, Guilford; Dr James Galloway, Wilmington; L Eldridge Johnston; J R Hargrave, Anson; Jesse R[illegible], Martin.

Literary Board.—His Excellency, Gov. Vance President. *Ex Officio*, Rev William E Pell, Wake Vice President. Richard Sterling, Guilford; Dr Wm Sloan, Professor. Richard H Battle, Jr, Secretary.

BOARD INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.—His Excellency, Gov Vance, President. *Ex Officio*, Wm Eaton, Jr, of Warren, J H Flanner, of New Hanover, and Merrick Megehee, Richard H Battle, Jr, Secretary.

Commissioners of Sinking Fund.—Hon Thomas Ruffin, Alamance, Hon Weldon N Edwards, Warren, and Hon David L Swain, Orange.

The University of North Carolina is at Chapel Hill.—Hon David L Swain, President.

Rev Calvin H Wiley is Superintendent of the Common Schools of the State.

Willie J Palmer, A M. is Principal of the N C Institution for the Deaf Dumb and the Blind, at Raleigh.

Dr Edward C Fisher is Superintendent of the Insane Asylum.